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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/592,596	06/12/2000	Richard Humpleman	SAM1.0067	7063

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EXAMINER	
TRAN, MYLINH T	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2179	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/592,596	HUMPLEMAN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Mylinh Tran	2179	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *04 September 2007*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-27* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-27* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 09/04/07 has been entered.

Applicant's Amendment filed 09/04/07 has been entered and carefully considered. However, limitations of the amended claim have not been found to be patentable. Therefore, these claims are rejected under the new ground of rejection as set forth below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and

invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 1-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Saito et al. [US 6, 523, 696] in view of Yang [US. 6,133,847].

As per independent claim 1, Saito teaches a computer implemented method and corresponding system for providing user interfaces in a first network including first devices interconnected via a communication medium and at least one interface device connecting said first network to at least a second network having interconnected second devices, the user interfaces for controlling the devices that are currently connected to the first network and devices that are currently connected to the second network, comprising the steps/means:

Obtaining information from said first devices currently connected to the first network (1st Network Public *Network*), said information including graphical and/or textual information (col. 21, lines 5-10); obtaining information from the interface device (PC 210 of fig. 7) about the second devices connected to the second network, said information including graphical and/or textual information; and *(Home Automation Network* 212 of fig. 7; col. 21, lines 50-60);

Saito also teaches using a reference information obtained in the appliances) to communicate over the first network and/or the second network to access the associated information stored in said corresponding device (Since there is communication from the public network appliances to the home network appliances, Saito teaches all the information of the appliances is stored in public network beforehand as a single set of information. Therefore, the Saito's system teaches obtaining information of the appliances and the obtained information is used to generate an UI.

Saito fails to clearly teach the step of generating the user interface and displaying a control user interface.

Although Saito fails to clearly teach the step of generating a user interface. However, Yang teaches generating a user interface description in one or more of said first devices based on at least on the obtained information (from Saito' system), the user interface description in each first device including: at least one graphical and/or textual reference of said first devices that are currently connected to the first network (the devices are on the Saito's network), and at least one graphical and/or textual reference of said second devices that are currently connected to the second network (column 4, lines 15-38); and displaying a top level user interface based on the user interface description on a device connected to the first network capable of displaying user interfaces (column 4, lines 30-58);

displaying a control user interface on a device connected to the first network capable of displaying user interfaces (column 5, lines 32-46) for user control one or more of said first and second devices by: using a reference in a user interface description, the reference corresponding to a first device or a second device, to perform the steps of:

generating the control user interface including device data corresponding to said corresponding device using the accessed information stored in said corresponding device; and displaying the control user interface for user control of said corresponding device (column 5, line 33 through column 6, line 58).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to combine Yang's teaching of generating the GUI with the system of Saito of obtaining information of all the devices being on the network. Motivation of the combination would have been to dynamically obtain information from the network devices.

As per claim 2, which is dependent on claim 1, Yang teaches said interface device includes information about the second devices (column 4, lines 15-38). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to combine Yang's teaching with the system of Saito. Motivation of the combination would have been to dynamically obtain information from the network devices.

As per claim 3, which is dependent on claim 1, Saito teaches the first network comprises a 1394 bus (If and 2"d *Home Network* of fig. 7), and the second network comprises a non-1394 bus *(Home Automation Network* of fig. 7).

As per claim 4, which is dependent on claim 3, Saito teaches the interface device includes an address extension table for the second devices, and wherein step of obtaining information from the interface device further includes the steps of using the address extension table to access said second devices (col. 24, lines 41-67 through col. 25, lines 1-3).

As per claim 5, which is dependent on claim 1, it is inherent in Saito's system that the PC device 210 (fig. 178) would include a bridge device acted as an interface between the 2nd Home Network and Home Automation Network.

As per claim 6, which is dependent on claim 1, Yang teaches displaying one or more top level user interfaces each based on a user interface description, on one or more devices connected to the first network capable of displaying a user interface, for user control of said first and second devices (column 6, lines 7-47 It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to combine Yang's teaching of generating the GUI with the system of Saito of obtaining information of all the devices being on the network. Motivation of the combination would have been to dynamically obtain information from the network devices.

As per claim 7, which is dependent on claim 6, Yang teaches the step of displaying each user interface further includes the steps of:

using each reference in the corresponding user interface description to access the associated information in each device; generating the top level user interface including device data corresponding to each device using the accessed information in each device; and displaying the top level user interface on said device capable of displaying a user interface (column 6, lines 7-47). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to combine Yang's teaching of generating the GUI with the system of Saito of obtaining information of all the devices being on the network. Motivation of the combination would have been to dynamically obtain information from the network devices.

As per claim 8, which is dependent on claim 1, while Yang teaches the step of generating a user interface description

Saito teaches associating a hyper-text link with the device information of one or more of said first and second devices (column 26, lines 40-65).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to combine Yang's teaching of generating the GUI with the system of Saito of obtaining information of all the devices being on the network. Motivation of the combination would have been to dynamically obtain information from the network devices.

As per claims 9 and 10, which are dependent on claims 1 and 9 respectively, Yang teaches the information in each device includes a user control interface description for user interaction with the device and the step of generating a user

interface description further includes the steps of generating each user interface description such that each reference in that user interface description is to at least the user control interface description in each corresponding device (column 4, lines 15-65). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to combine Yang's teaching of generating the GUI with the system of Saito of obtaining information of all the devices being on the network. Motivation of the combination would have been to dynamically obtain information from the network devices.

As per independent claims 11 and 21, they are similar in scope to claim 1; therefore, they should be rejected under similar rationale.

As per claim 12, which is dependent on claim 11, it is a similar scope to claim 2; therefore, it should be rejected under similar rationale.

As per claims 13 and 22, which are dependent on claims 11 and 21 respectively, they are similar in scope to claim 3; therefore, they should be rejected under similar rationale.

As per claim 14, which is dependent on claim 13, it is a similar scope to claim 4; therefore, it should be rejected under similar rationale.

As per claim 15, which is dependent on claim 11, it is a similar scope to claim 5; therefore, it should be rejected under similar rationale.

As per claims 16 and 23, which are dependent on claims 11 and 21 respectively, they are similar in scope to claim 6; therefore, they should be rejected under similar rationale.

As per claims 17 and 24, which are dependent on claims 16 and 23 respectively, they are similar in scope to claim 7; therefore, they should be rejected under similar rationale.

As per claims 18 and 25, which are dependent on claims 11 and 21, they are similar in scope to claim 8; therefore, they should be rejected under similar rationale.

As per claims 19 and 26, which are dependent on claims 11 and 21 respectively, they are similar in scope to claim 9; therefore, they should be rejected under similar rationale.

As per claims 20 and 27, which are dependent on claims 19 and 26 respectively, they are similar in scope to claim 10; therefore, they should be rejected under similar rationale.

Response to Arguments

Applicant has argued that Saito does not disclose "obtaining information from the interface device about the second devices connected to the second network, said information including graphical and/or textual information".

However, Saito further teaches textual information stored as information in ROM in column 22, line 66 to column 12, line 23, in which Saito teaches the process of recognizing terminals or services by reading the configuration ROM on the 1394 bus and displaying the graphical icons and associated texts on the display screen as in figures 13 and 14. Figures 13-14 show "DVD Player",

"Video", "WWW", "Air. Conditioner", "Printer" are graphical information of the first and second networks.

Saito also teaches using a reference (information obtained in the appliances) to communicate over the first network and/or the second network to access the associated information stored in said corresponding device (Since there is communication from the public network appliances to the home network appliances, Saito teaches all the information of the appliances is stored in public network beforehand as a single set of information. Therefore, the Saito's system teaches obtaining information of the appliances and the obtained information is used to generate an UI.

In Saito, all of the appliance information are obtained through the network system. The information is stored in the network as a remote itself. Then Yang uses these information to generate the graphical user interface.

Applicant also argued that Saito does not teach generating a user interface description in one or more of said first devices based at least on the obtained information, the user interface description in each first device including: at least one graphical and/or textual reference of said first devices that are currently connected to the first network, and at least one graphical and/or textual reference of said second devices that are currently connected to the second network and displaying a top level user interface based on the user interface description on a device connected to the first network capable of displaying user interfaces.

However, the examiner relied on Yang for these features.

The network system from Saito does obtaining information from one or more devices currently connected to the network.

Yang's teaching at column 8, lines 10 to 14, in which "the remote control device could receive an interface control signal from each of the appliances on the network or in the room". And based on the obtained information, the system generates a top page user interface description including a separate icon for each appliance that is available to be controlled (col. 8, lines 14-17).

The system obtains information from one or more devices currently connected to the network according to Yang's teaching at column 8, lines 10 to 14, in which "the remote control device could receive an interface control signal from each of the appliances on the network or in the room". Based on the obtained information, the system of Yang generates a user interface description including a separate icon for each appliance that is available to be controlled (col. 8, lines 14-17). The user interface (140) of the hand-held device (100) is a function control panel providing information to the user related to utilizing the remote control device to control a particular appliance (or multiple devices). The hand-held device provides icons to be displayed on the user interface, and each icon represents one single device. The selection of the icon would provide a control signal to access the information within the appliances to be able to access the software control for that appliance. The system configures the user interface function to control panel so that it would be configured to control the selected

applicant. Therefore, Yang discloses "the user interface including at least one reference associated with the device information in each of said devices currently connected to the network". Yang discloses references (icons) to access the software control for that appliance from the obtained information of the remote network system of Saito.

Therefore, the combination of Saito and Yang teach the all the limitations of the claimed invention.

According to Yang, the user accesses the interface description of each corresponding controlled device, that allows user interactioned with that device. The top page user interface description includes at least one electronic link (the user would ***select the icon that represents the particular appliance***; col. 8, lines 18-19) providing directly accessing from the top page user interface description to at least the user control interface description contained in each corresponding device, which has been downloaded from the network (from Saito) (***the selection of the icon*** would provide a control signal to the function interface and the function interface would ***then access the control software for that appliance so that it would be configured to control the appliance selected***; col. 8, lines 19-24). It is also further notice that selection on the icon, represents the particular appliance, that leads to access the control software for that appliance, in fact, "electronic link".

Yang teaches that when a link in the top page user interface description is user activated (e.g., the user would ***select the icon that represents the particular***

appliance; col. 8, lines 18-19), the control interface description in the corresponding device is accessed using the activated link to obtain device information and generate a device user interface for user interaction with that corresponding device (***the selection of the icon*** would provide a control signal to the function interface and the functions interface would ***then access the control software for that appliance so that it would be configured to control the appliance selected***; col. 8, lines 19-24).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mylinh Tran. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Thu from 7:OOAM to 3:OOPM at 571-272-4141.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor; Weilun Lo, can be reached at 571-272-4847.

The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are as follows:

571-273-8300

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either **Private PAIR or Public PAIR.** Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private

PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Mylinh Tran

AU: 2179

WEILUN LO
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

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